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OPERATIONS CENTERPOLAND WORKING GROUP

Situation Report No. 20

Situation in Poland as of 0500 EST December 21, 1981

Spasowski defection. Polish DCM (now Charge) Pawliszewski handed over to DAS Scanlan in late afternoon message identical to that given earlier to Ambassador Meehan in Warsaw. Scanlan responded to Pawliszewski's questions in detail noting that Ambassador Spasowski's request for asylum had been honored. Warsaw Radio stated that Spasowski had been subject to bouts of depression for some time and was recalled to Warsaw in that connection. Spasowski's mid-afternoon statement to press on reasons for his defection was lead item on evening TV and radio news.

Internal. Embassy Warsaw reports at 0415 EST that Warsaw is calm. Despite recent severe weather, main streets are clear and transportation appears normal. We still have only fragmentary -- and belated -- information mainly from major urban centers. These suggest that resistance to martial law is more widespread than previously reported and is continuing -- despite Polish government claims that situation is "normalizing" and work has resumed in more than 95 percent of the country's enterprises. Increasing reports of brutality by Government forces suggest that casualty figures may be far higher than the Polish government has thus far reported. Swedish domestic radio, based on information from Polish Church sources, puts total deaths at more than 200 persons. The Embassy has confirmed press reports that some priests have been arrested.

In Silesia strikes appear to be continuing in perhaps as many as 20 coal mines, with a major confrontation ongoing in one. Warsaw Radio reported Sunday morning that Solidarity activists had blown up the entrance to the Ziemowit coal mine, trapping 1300 miners

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below, but did not repeat the report (which had been picked up by TASS) in the evening.

Major enterprises in Katowice, including the Huta Katowice steelworks, were reportedly on strike at least through December 18, although police were said to have arrested nearly all the regional Solidarity leadership on the night of December 12-13, often with considerable brutality.

Western and Polish eyewitnesses reported strikers remained inside the Lenin steel mill outside Krakow, after two attempts by security forces to dislodge them.


In Gdansk, Gdynia and Szczecin, shipyard workers have been told not to report to work until after Christmas. Foreign Ministry officials confirmed that workers in Gdansk have taken over a building filled with inflammable material.

The scope of resistance in the countryside, middle-sized and smaller cities remains a major unknown. A Solidarity official from the industrial city of Rzeszow near the Soviet border told our Consulate in Krakow December 18 that all enterprises in the city were on strike at least through December 17, and that an overwhelming police and military force, including armored personnel carriers, 12 tanks, and 12,000 men (sic) was patrolling the city. He also had heard reports of beatings, torture and gunfire in a nearby detention center, where Solidarity activists and intellectuals were being held.

Walesa's Whereabouts. According to Western press reports, Walesa has been moved to Warsaw Military District Headquarters from a villa south of the capital.

Reuters reports statements Sunday evening on CBS 60 Minutes by Wieslaw Gornicki, an adviser reportedly close to Jaruzelski, that he could not "imagine" Poland without Solidarity once martial law is lifted, nor any harm being done to Walesa.

  
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